Guided missiles ; NIE, SEC, or JIC machinery?

15 March 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT   : Item 6 on IAC Agenda for 16 March ("Soviet Capabilities
                 in Guided Missiles," IAC-D-61)

1. No facts additional to those appearing in subject document and
the memorandum for you from the AD/SI, dated 3 March 1954, are known to
this Office. (Copies attached.)

2. It is possible that the Service members may raise either or
both of the following two points:

   a. That the SEC should prepare this Estimate -- If this
   point is raised, I recommend that CIA's position be that a
   comprehensive Estimate on Soviet capabilities in guided missiles
   must include economic, military and related factors which can
   best be handled by the National Estimates machinery as a whole.

   b. That this Estimate be prepared by the JIC, particularly
   since under DCID 3/4, responsibility for intelligence on guided
   missiles is primarily a responsibility of the Department of
   Defense -- In the event that this point is raised, I suggest
   that the DCI's position should be that DCID 3/4 allocates
   primary responsibility for the production of Departmental Intel-
   ligence and is not applicable to Intelligence problems which
   assume National Intelligence implications.

3. A collateral matter on which we have only unofficial information
but which if true, may condition any proposition to be put forward by
the Service members of the IAC is as follows -- On 9 March 1954, the
Armed Services Policy Council discussed the problem of guided missiles
intelligence and requested Mr. Quarles (Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Research and Development) to prepare a memorandum to the DCI
pointing out the diversity of conclusions in existing Estimates and
urging a community effort to produce a definitive Estimate for use of
planners at all levels of Government. The memorandum was scheduled
for Policy Council approval on March 15 but, due to urgency of another
matter, has now been postponed to March 23.

4. [   ] will be present at the IAC meeting in the event
any of the foregoing matters come up for discussion.

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                                        SHERMAN KENT
                                        Assistant Director
                                        National Estimates

Concur:

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Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence   *in HS*
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